

legislation she has authored and sponsored over this past year. I have no doubt that she will continue to be a strong voice for servicemembers, veterans, and their families in the years ahead.

Today I honor Lieutenant Colonel ERNST for her 23 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Army Reserve and the Iowa National Guard. Her service in support of this Nation has been exemplary—and her mission continues. I look forward to working with Senator ERNST for years to come as we tackle the many challenges ahead.

#### SUPPORT FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I wish to speak today in support of Planned Parenthood and express how heartbroken I am over last week's shooting in Colorado Springs. My thoughts are with the victims and their families. To experience such violence in a place dedicated to saving lives is unthinkable.

I would also like to thank the staff of the clinic in Colorado Springs—and all Planned Parenthood clinics across the country. The health care services you provide are invaluable. You help so many people, and you do it in the face of so many challenges. I am grateful for your bravery and your compassion.

Following last week's attack, the media reported that staff rushed to the clinic's safe room with their patients. Let me repeat: a health clinic with a safe room. That a clinic dedicated to helping women—many of whom have no other option for health care—needs a safe room is unbelievable.

I have been deeply troubled over the years by the toxic rhetoric targeted at Planned Parenthood—and this dangerous rhetoric has only increased in recent months. It sends a signal that using violence to intimidate health care professionals and shut down clinics is somehow acceptable.

Let me be clear: these actions are not acceptable. It is shameful and disgusting and should be universally condemned. I do believe there is a link between the poisonous rhetoric directed at these health care providers and the violence used against them.

And I hope all of my colleagues in Congress—and every public official around the country—thinks carefully about the effects their words can have.

An FBI intelligence assessment from September said, "It is likely criminal or suspicious incidents will continue to be directed against reproductive health care providers, their staff and facilities." These incidents aren't new.

Over the last 40 years, there have been more than 200 arsons and bombings at women's health care clinics. Doctors and health care staff have been murdered. Since July, four Planned Parenthood facilities have been set on fire, including one in my home State of California. This type of violence is simply abhorrent.

And I strongly believe these aren't just attacks on Planned Parenthood and women's health; they are attacks on our way of life. This isn't what our country stands for.

The individuals who carry out these crimes have one goal: to terrorize doctors, nurses, and clinic staff; to make them quit their jobs; to force these health care clinics to close. They want to make it harder and harder for women to access reproductive health care and make their own health care choices.

In the wake of the Colorado Springs shooting, a former Planned Parenthood worker from Kansas shared some of her experiences. In the 3 years she worked at Planned Parenthood, there were four attempts to burn her clinic to the ground. Two cherry bombs were left at the door after hours. They exploded and forced the clinic to close temporarily. Windows were shot out on three occasions. And butyric acid—essentially a stink bomb—was put in the clinic's ventilation system numerous times. These aren't acts of political protest. These are serious crimes, and the perpetrators must be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Before I close, I would like to reiterate just how important Planned Parenthood is for our country. Planned Parenthood serves some of the most vulnerable women in our society. It cares for 2.7 million patients in the United States. Ninety-seven percent of Planned Parenthood services carried out by its 700 clinics involve basic health care.

This includes breast exams, cervical cancer screenings, testing for sexually transmitted diseases, and contraception. One in five women will use Planned Parenthood as their primary health care provider at some point in their lives. Nationwide, 80 percent of Planned Parenthood patients make less than \$18,000 per year. And Planned Parenthood is often the only health care option for low-income women and women in rural communities.

Simply put, Planned Parenthood is vital for the women of this country. It is bad enough that some politicians want to limit women's health care options by defunding Planned Parenthood. It is even more inexcusable that violence is being used to achieve what my Republican colleagues have failed to do.

I stand with Planned Parenthood now more than ever. And I call for an end to the sickening campaign of violence against clinics nationwide. Thank you.

#### CHURCH PLAN CLARIFICATION ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I am very pleased that the Senate may soon consider bipartisan legislation which I recently introduced with Senators PORTMAN and KLOBUCHAR: the Church Plan Clarification Act of 2015, S. 2308. By introducing this bill and asking for a unanimous consent agreement re-

garding its passage, our goal is to ensure the retirement security of clergy, church lay workers, and their families across the country.

The Church Plan Clarification Act addresses several unintended consequences resulting from the application of general tax and pension regulations to the unique structures of church pension plans. Churches and synagogues established some of the first pension plans in the country, several dating back to the 18th century, and they are designed to ensure that our clergy and lay staff have adequate resources during their retirement years.

Church pensions are critically important compensation plans that help support over 1 million clergy members across the country in their retirement—particularly those who dedicated their careers to serving in economically disadvantaged congregations.

Church plans are often structured to reflect the ecclesiastical teachings of their denomination. The resulting diversity of plan structures, coupled with the complexity of the legal and regulatory framework that applies to church plans, has led to the need for this legislation. The bill would correct several technical issues that, while small, are critical to the functioning and operation of church plans and the retirement benefits they provide.

While the corrections contained in S. 2308 would be of tremendous help to church plans, I want to make clear that the bill does not affect the definition of "church plan" under the Internal Revenue Code or Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, ERISA. In particular, no inference is intended by this legislation regarding the statutory requirements a pension plan must meet to be considered or treated as a "church plan" under IRC section 414(e) of the Internal Revenue Code and section 3(33) of ERISA, and the bill has no bearing on the interpretation of those sections. Rather, the Church Plan Clarification Act is simply about fixing the rules that govern how church plans operate and serve their participants.

Again, the Church Plan Clarification Act is targeted, noncontroversial, and has broad bipartisan and bicameral support. I hope we can work quickly to provide clarity for these plans by enacting this legislation and thereby ensuring that those who dedicate their lives to religious service are not inappropriately and unfairly disadvantaged.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE CHRISTOPHER J. CASTANEDA

Mr. SCOTT. Madam President, today I wish to honor the life of Private Christopher J. Castaneda, of Fripp Island, SC, who died while serving his country on November 19, 2015, in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

In January of 2015, Private Castaneda made the noble decision to answer the

call to serve by joining our Nation's Army at the age of 19 years old. Serving in the Army's 10th Mountain Division as an infantryman allowed Private Castaneda to excel and leave a unique legacy of honor. Since his enlistment, Private Castaneda has been honored with numerous awards outlining his commitment to our country, such as the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

The legacy of Private Castaneda will undoubtedly continue through his mother and grandfather he leaves behind. It is with great pride and homage we recognize Private Christopher J. Castaneda. May we never forget his service and sacrifice to protect our country.

#### REMEMBERING ANITA DATAR

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I wish to honor the life of Anita Ashok Datar—a loving mother, beloved daughter and sister, and dedicated humanitarian from Takoma Park in my home State of Maryland. She was one of 19 victims killed on November 20 in a terrorist attack in Mali.

Anita's life was one of service to others, both at home and abroad. She was born in Massachusetts and raised in Flanders, NJ. Her friends and classmates remember her as kind and smart, "one of the good ones." After she graduated from Rutgers University, she served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal—the beginning of her career helping the world's most disadvantaged.

From there, she went back to school to obtain master's degrees in public health and public administration and began her work improving the lives of the poorest as a global health professional with expertise in reproductive health, family planning, and HIV prevention and treatment. Ms. Datar spent over a decade working on critical development projects in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia.

As my colleagues know, Mali has been in turmoil for several years. It is the location of the world's most dangerous peacekeeping mission. Despite the presence of a United Nations peacekeeping mission and a French-led military operation, terrorists have continued to carry out periodic attacks on Malians and foreigners.

Despite these dangers, Ms. Datar, who was serving as a senior director for field programs at Palladium, went to Mali as a U.S. Agency for International Development contractor to help those in need. Her dedication to seeing that vulnerable populations are not forgotten, overlooked, or marginalized epitomizes public service, and it exemplifies the best of American values and ideals. For that, she will always be remembered.

The attack on the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako was nothing more than a senseless act undertaken by people who have no compassion and

clearly no regard for human life. We cannot and will not let actions like this stop us from pursuing the mission that people like Anita Datar are so passionate about: improving the lives of the poorest of the poor.

There is no better way to honor her legacy than to continue to help the needy, the disenfranchised, and those at risk both here at home and around the world.

Anita is survived by her 7-year-old son, a brother, her parents, and countless friends and colleagues. In addition to offering our condolences, we must commit to continuing her work and remembering the sacrifices that she and countless other development workers make each and every day.

#### REMEMBERING KATE ROGERS MCCARTHY

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I rise today to honor a distinguished Oregonian who made it her life's work to protect many of Oregon's and the Nation's most beautiful and majestic natural places. On November 3, Kate Rogers McCarthy, a lifelong conservationist, activist, and friend, passed away in her hometown of Parkdale, OR. Born in 1917 adjacent to the snow-capped peaks of Mount Hood in Parkdale, Kate spent most of her life in awe of the natural beauty that surrounded her. Kate drew from that passion as she worked to preserve many of Oregon's most iconic outdoor spaces, eventually taking on many leadership roles in conservation groups at the State and national levels.

Growing up with the wilderness of Mount Hood as her backyard, Kate learned the value of nature and the importance of protecting our natural treasures. By the time she was in high school, Kate and her younger sister Betty ran an outdoor recreation camp for girls on the family property that introduced those girls to the beauty of Mount Hood. Kate attended Reed College, Yale Nursing School, and the University of Oregon Medical School. After earning her degrees and with new commercial development threatening the preservation of the Mount Hood wilderness, Kate began her lifelong campaign to preserve the lands she loved.

In the mid-1970s, with development rapidly expanding into wild areas near Mount Hood, Kate and a group of Parkdale residents began a campaign to encourage county representatives to vote on zoning options. Thanks to her diligence and that of the other residents, the county voted to protect agricultural zones. Agricultural zoning still protects farmland in the upper valley today. In 1977, Kate gathered a few friends and founded the Hood River Valley Residents Committee. The committee grew to 1,200 members under Kate's leadership and continues to protect the natural spaces that are so unique to Oregon.

A tireless advocate and conservationist, Kate was involved in a mul-

titude of other conservation groups as well. She served as a member of the Oregon Natural Resources Council, what is now Oregon Wild; the Board of the Oregon Environmental Council; and Friends of the Columbia Gorge. She was also a charter member of 1000 Friends of Oregon. To motivate still greater involvement by citizens in the protection of Mount Hood, Kate helped form Friends of Mount Hood, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the alpine meadows, wetlands, wildlife, and forests of Mount Hood by working with the Forest Service and the Oregon congressional delegation.

In 2002, Kate McCarthy was recognized as a Women of Distinction honoree by the soroptimists of Hood River for making a difference in the lives of women and girls in her local community. She also received the highest award given by the Mazamas Mountaineering Club, becoming only the 41st person given the top award since the club's founding in 1894. For several years, Kate worked closely with local organizations, as well as my office, to protect the north side of Mount Hood and Cooper Spur from a massive destination resort in the Hood River Valley. After years of hard-fought battles, Congress passed the Mount Hood Wilderness bill. The bill protects the more than 200,000 acres of wilderness and rivers in the Hood River Valley, an accomplishment I am proud to have been a part of.

Because of Kate's lifetime of work to protect some of our most beautiful wetlands, forests, wildlife, and farms, she has given Oregonians and people from around the world opportunities to experience Oregon's natural splendor for generations to come. Kate McCarthy, a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, friend, and advocate of the natural beauty around her, deserves the utmost appreciation for a life fully lived. I honor the prolific life and career of Kate Rodgers McCarthy and express my gratitude for her everlasting impact on our State and Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. KATHARINE BLODGETT GEBBIE

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to Dr. Katharine Blodgett Gebbie, the past director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's—NIST—Physics Laboratory and its successor, the Physical Measurement Laboratory. On December 10, 2015, the Precision Measurement Laboratory at NIST's Boulder campus will be formally renamed in honor of Dr. Gebbie, the first time in more than 50 years that a major NIST building has been named for an individual. This incredible recognition underscores and celebrates Dr. Gebbie's 45 years of service to NIST and her contributions on behalf of the scientific community and our Nation.

At a time when a much smaller percentage of women were a part of the